

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SAJ-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OES-02

NSF-01 CU-02 EB-04 COME-00 ACDA-05 AEC-05 AECE-00

FEAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 IO-04 /080 W

----- 039873

O 301619Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4116

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 16569

6. IN THE GENSCHER-GROMYKO TALKS TUESDAY, CONCENTRATION CENTERED ON SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION, CULTURAL EXCHANGE, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TOURISM CENTERS. GROMYKO TOOK A VERY HARD POSITION ON THE BERLIN ASPECTS OF ALL THREE ISSUES AND THERE WAS NO MOVEMENT ON TUESDAY. ON WEDNESDAY, HOWEVER, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT IN THE GENSCHER-GROMYKO TALKS, MAINLY WITH REGARD TO THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL AGREEMENT. UNTIL THEN THE USSR HAD NOT AGREED TO INCLUDE IN THE EXCHANGES FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES LOCATED IN WEST BERLIN. ON WEDNESDAY, HOWEVER, THE USSR OFFERED A FORMULA WHICH WOULD NOT EXCLUDE PEOPLE FROM TAKING PART IN THE EXCHANGES BECAUSE OF THEIR RESIDENCE IN WEST BERLIN OR BECAUSE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY. GEHLHOFF DESCRIBED THIS AS A FORMULA FOR WHICH THE FRG HAD BEEN FIGHTING; NOW IT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. DESCRIBING HOW IT WOULD WORK, HE SAID THAT, UNDER COVER OF AN OVERALL AGREEMENT, THERE WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENTS ON SPECIFIC MATTERS BETWEEN MINISTRIES IN BONN AND MOSCOW AND THAT RELATED WEST BERLIN INSTITUTIONS (E.G., PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE) WOULD TAKE PART BUT WITH NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. THE SOVIETS SAID THAT IF THE FRG EVER ANNOUNCED

THAT THE USSR HAD GIVEN IN ON THIS POINT, THE WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE CONTRARY.

7. THERE WAS ALSO MOVEMENT IN THE GROMYKO-GENSCHER TALKS ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE, TOURISM CENTERS, AND SPORTS EXCHANGES. ON THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE QUESTION, SPECIFICS WERE NOT DISCUSSED BUT THE COMMUNIQUE WILL HAVE BOTH SIDES STATING THAT A POSITIVE RESULT IS POSSIBLE.

8. SCHMIDT ALSO HAD PRIVATE TALKS WITH BREZHNEV TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY BUT GEHLHOFF WAS NOT YET INFORMED OF THE RESULTS. INFORMATION ON THIS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BONN.

9. SUMMING UP, GEHLHOFF SAID THAT THE TALKS THE FIRST DAY (MONDAY) WERE NOT UNFRIENDLY BUT NOT VERY FRIENDLY EITHER. THE SOVIETS TRIED TO EXERT CERTAIN PRESSURE ON THE FRG, AND DID THE SAME TUESDAY IN THE GROMYKO-GENSCHER MEETING. BUT ON WEDNESDAY, THERE WAS DEFINITE PROGRESS. GEHLHOFF EXPECTS A LENGTHY COMMUNIQUE TO BE SIGNED AND RELEASED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. HE SAID AN AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION, AN ADDITION TO THE MAY 1973 AGREEMENT, WILL ALSO BE SIGNED. THIS DEALS WITH FACILITATING COOPERATION AND CONTACTS BETWEEN INDUSTRIALISTS AND INDUSTRIES OF THE FRG AND COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IN THE USSR, AND SPEAKS OF COOPERATION IN THE EXPLOITATION, PREPARATION, AND DELIVERY OF RAW MATERIALS. HISS, BREAKING IN, DESCRIBED THE AGREEMENT AS A GENERAL FRAMEWORK SIMILARY TO THE ONE SIGNED 18 MONTHS AGO. THE FRG BRIEFERS SAID THAT AN OBSTACLE (UNEXPLAINED) HAD ARISEN IN THIS AGREEMENT BUT THAT IT TOO MAY BE SIGNED WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

10. ASKED WHETHER BELIN CAME UP AS A SEPARATE ISSUE, GEHLHOFF SAID THAT OF COURSE IT WAS DISCUSSED IN RELATION TO THE FIVE SPECIFIC ISSUES NOTED ABOVE (SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL, CULTURAL EXCHANGE, TOURISM CENTERS, SPORTS ACTIVITIES, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE). IT ALSO CAME UP IN ITS OWN RIGHT. SCHMIDT EXPLAINED TO BREZHNEV THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BERLIN CONFIDENTIAL

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ISSUE TO THE FRG. THE SOVIETS SAID REPEATEDLY AND STRONGLY THAT THEY WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY INFRINGEMENT OF THE QA. YET, SAID GEHLHOFF, TODAY THERE WAS REAL PROGRESS LEADING TO A COMPROMISE PERMITTING THE PARTICIPATION OF WEST BERLIN IN BILATERAL EXCHANGES.

11. IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION ABOUT BREZHNEV'S ABSENCE FROM THE LUNCH TUESDAY, GEHLHOFF SAID THAT THE ABSENCE IS NOT A SIGN OF STRAIN IN THE RELATIONSHIP. ASKED IF IT MIGHT MEAN THAT BREZHNEV WAS ENGAGED IN A LEADERSHIP MEETING OF SOME SORT, GEHLHOFF SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO BUT ADDED THAT PERHAPS THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAD MET LATE INTO MONDAY NIGHT. BREZHNEV TOLD SCHMIDT AFTER THE DINNER MONDAY NIGHT THAT HE WOULD BE

WORKING UNTIL AT LEAST TWO IN THE MORNING.

STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW00002
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741092/abbrzbbu.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: CVIS, UR
To: STATE INFO BERLIN
USBERLIN
BONN
ISLAMABAD
LENINGRAD
NATO
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005